



Montessori for 6 to 12 year olds

The primary aged student develops powers of reason, abstraction, and imagination and begins to think and wonder about ideas and concepts beyond her own personal experience. Lessons, in the form of stories and materials, inspire children in independent research and group projects. The curriculum includes the physical nature of the universe, human history and prehistory, literature, science, the arts, mathematics and geometry – in fact, any subject studied can be and is presented in a Montessori primary classroom.

In New Zealand Montessori education does not end with the early childhood (3-6) experience. Many primary classes have been established in the last 15 years, providing education for 6-12 year olds.

Quest for Knowledge

In Montessori primary the child's questions are encouraged and provide the basis for exploration of the world; the child really connects with knowledge when she

has initiated the search for answers. A Montessori education aims to give the child a vision of interrelated knowledge and a love of learning. Integrated studies introduced by the Montessori teacher are “offerings” for intellectual development of the child and provide both a focus and a point of departure for the child. Learning occurs when interesting connections are brought into consciousness through self-discovery.

Community of Learners

Montessori primary is based on multi-age groupings. Montessori primary classes have children from 6-12 years, with 6-9 year olds and 9-12 year olds often forming two groups. The multi-age grouping provides children with opportunities for social development. Social relations, including tolerance and respect for oneself and for others, is also a strong part of the Montessori curriculum. Friendships developed in a multi-age setting have depth, and a wide range of ages and abilities builds in each child a tolerance and appreciation for people’s differences. Relationships within the class and their complexities are supported by sensitive and respectful adults who facilitate and help the children to take responsibility for their community.

The multi-age groupings also enhance learning. Younger children are inspired by the older children’s activities and try to emulate their progress. The older children benefit by reinforcing their own knowledge “teaching” younger children.

Primary Learning Environment

The environment and class culture should excite the imagination and entice the primary age child into a quest for knowledge. Historical timelines, pictorial charts, concrete mathematical materials, reference books, stimulating discussions, a teacher to facilitate and support learning are all features of a Montessori primary class.

The self-learning structure of a Montessori classroom frees the teacher to give a child the individual attention he needs, when he is ready, when his interest is high

and curiosity aroused, instead of when the whole class is ready. The teacher plans for each child individually, providing guidance and offering challenges according to the child's strengths and needs.

Individual planning, one-on-one lessons and small group work ensure that a child is neither held back nor left floundering by the larger group. In a Montessori class an attitude to learning is developed where the child is not afraid to try new challenges and will be able to go into things in depth without limiting himself. Children work at their own pace. Children can excel where there is a natural aptitude, and work steadily on areas which need more time to master.

MONTESSORI

What is Montessori?
Montessori in Aotearoa New Zealand
Education for the Future
A Brief History
Dr Maria Montessori
Montessori 0 – 3 years
Montessori 3 – 6 years
Montessori 6 – 12 years
Montessori Quotes

"There are many who hold, as I do, that the most important

period of life is not the age of university studies, but the first one, the period from birth to the age of six. For that is the time when man's intelligence itself, his greatest implement, is being formed. But not only his intelligence; the full totality of his psychic powers."

— Maria Montessori, *The Absorbent Mind*

Montessori schools and centres near you

Finding a Montessori early childhood centre or school is easy via our member list.

SCHOOL SEARCH

Montessori Voices >



OUR QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR PARENTS

e-zine Informed >



OUR NEWS UPDATE FOR MONTESSORI PROFESSIONALS

MONTESSORI

[What is Montessori?](#)

[Montessori in Aotearoa New Zealand](#)

[Education for the Future](#)

[A Brief History](#)

[Dr Maria Montessori](#)

[Montessori 0 – 3 years](#)

[Montessori 3 – 6 years](#)

[Montessori 6 – 12 years](#)

[Montessori Quotes](#)

PARENTS

[School Search](#)

[Choosing Montessori](#)

[Parenting Ideas](#)

[Montessori Videos](#)

[Parent Guide – 3 to 6 years](#)

[Parent Guide – 6 to 12 years](#)

[Montessori Voices](#)

PROFESSIONALS

[Montessori Positions Available](#)

[Montessori Positions Wanted](#)

[Career information](#)

[MJ2Ex \(Montessori Journey to Excellence\)](#)

[MANZ Professional Events](#)

Dr. Nicola Chisnall Memorial Award
MANZ-Every Educator Study Grant
Binda Goldsbrough Research Fund
Montessori Materials Buy, Sell or Swap
Suppliers
e-zine Informed

ABOUT US

What is Montessori Aotearoa New Zealand (MANZ)?
Our team
Strategic Plan
Our policies

Join Montessori Aotearoa New Zealand (MANZ)

LATEST NEWS

MANZ Conference 2017

Dr Nicola Chisnall Memorial Award 2017

Dr. Nicola Chisnall Memorial Award 2016

How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity, and the Hidden Power of Character

MORE NEWS >

Montessori Aotearoa New Zealand

PO Box 31-461, Lower Hutt, Wellington 3144 , New Zealand
Phone: 0274 485 525, Email: eo@montessori.org.nz



